



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Kimberly A. Foster  
Executive Director

**COMMISSIONERS:**  
CAROL O. BIONDI  
PATRICIA CURRY  
ANN E. FRANZEN  
SUSAN F. FRIEDMAN  
HELEN A. KLEINBERG, CHAIR  
DR. LA-DORIS MCCLANEY  
REV. CECIL L. MURRAY  
SANDRA RUDNICK, VICE CHAIR  
STACEY SAVELLE  
ADELINA SORKIN, LCSW/ACSW, VICE CHAIR  
DR. HARRIETTE F. WILLIAMS  
TRULA J. WORTHY-CLAYTON

## APPROVED MINUTES

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The General Meeting of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **June 18, 2007**, in room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. **Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim transcription of events at this meeting.**

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (Quorum Established)

Patricia Curry  
Ann E. Franzen  
Helen A. Kleinberg  
Dr. La-Doris McClanney  
Rev. Cecil L. Murray  
Sandra Rudnick  
Stacey Savelle  
Adelina Sorkin  
Dr. Harriette F. Williams  
Trula J. Worthy-Clayton

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused/Unexcused)

Carol O. Biondi  
Susan F. Friedman  
Wendy L. Ramallo

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the June 18, 2007, meeting was unanimously approved.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 4, 2007, general meeting were unanimously approved.

### CHAIR'S REPORT

- Chair Kleinberg announced that Commissioner McClanney would be in charge of the nominations process for Commission officers this year; she will contact each Commissioner over the next few weeks to find out who is willing to serve.

- **Commissioner McClaney moved that the general Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, September 3 (the Labor Day holiday), be canceled. Commissioner Savelle seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
- **Commissioner Worthy-Clayton moved that, in place of that canceled meeting, a special meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, September 4. Commissioner McClaney seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
- **Commissioner McClaney moved that the election of Commission officers—a chair and two vice chairs—be scheduled for October 1. Commissioner Savelle seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
- Commissioner Franzen spoke glowingly of the Celebration '07 event, which saw 164 foster youth graduate high school with honors and receive monetary help for college. One dynamic young speaker, a foster child since age five, also spoke at a Saturday event sponsored by 30 men who are mentoring children in foster care and in jail, and commented that his foster mother's taking him to church every week had made a big difference in his life. Vice Chair Sorkin thanked United Friends of the Children, who supplied almost a half million dollars in scholarships, and the Teague Family Foundation, who supplied approximately \$60,000. In addition to funds, Vice Chair Rudnick noted, United Friends of the Children also provides emotional support to foster youth to guide them through difficult times.
- The Commission's annual retreat will take place sometime in November; Vice Chair Sorkin and Commissioners Worthy-Clayton, Franzen, McClaney, and Savelle volunteered to serve on the retreat planning committee.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

In place of Department of Children and Family Services director Trish Ploehn, who was involved in budget hearings with the Board of Supervisors, deputy director Angela Carter updated Commissioners on several issues.

- DCFS's new Chatsworth office opens today at 20151 Nordhoff Street, with staff from the former North Hollywood office. Eight units from the Santa Clarita office will also co-locate there, with three moving in today and five to follow soon. The Santa Clarita main office will remain open, splitting with Chatsworth all the ZIP Codes formerly served by the North Hollywood office. A Chatsworth open house will be announced when a date has been set.

Vice Chair Sorkin expressed concerns about the new office's accessibility to families in the eastern San Fernando Valley, since Chatsworth is much farther west than North Hollywood. Travel times across the Valley can be lengthy in a car, and bus trips can take as long as two hours. (The Orange Line bus route runs along Burbank Boulevard, but that is considerably south of the Chatsworth office.) Chair Kleinberg requested further information about caseload divisions in the San Fernando Valley.

- DCFS held a job fair last Saturday in Hawthorne for social workers and health services aides, hoping to recruit candidates who would commit to working within SPA 6, where the department experiences hiring challenges. Initial responses were encouraging, and DCFS plans to duplicate the strategy in other target areas. Chair Kleinberg asked for data on specific hiring and retention results from this event when it becomes available.
- A meeting with the auditor-controller's office, DCFS, and the Association of Community Human Services Agencies (ACHSA) took place last Wednesday with regard to a recent Proposition A analysis that determined that contracting out Adoptions and Safe Families Act (ASFA) relative home assessments to the private sector would not be cost-effective. An additional Proposition A analysis will be performed now that ACHSA providers have a clearer understanding of the assumptions made in the original analysis. Providers originally believed that DCFS had underestimated its costs for the home assessments, but that was not borne out in discussions.

From the audience, ACHSA's Amanda Lopez explained that providers thought the original analysis compared county costs to county costs, not county costs to contractor costs. However, the analysis actually looked at costs avoided by the county, and private sector representatives now think that a hybrid option, with both the county and private contractors performing ASFA assessments, might be acceptable. DCFS is making changes to the cost analysis, as is ACHSA, and the auditor-controller will issue a final report as soon as possible.

Although Ms. Carter said that the primary focus of a Proposition A analysis is cost projection, Commissioner Williams expressed strong feelings that whatever process is adopted should protect families, since other factors besides cost are also important. She requested that the Commission have another chance to look at the report before it is finalized. Commissioner Worthy-Clayton agreed, saying that regardless of who provides assessment services, the Commission's concerns about relatives being disrespected should be heard. Chair Kleinberg asked that DCFS bring back a timetable for the analysis, and participate in a discussion about programmatic concerns.

- Ms. Carter distributed a draft of the 'first-contact' fact sheet for relatives, informing them of the steps they must take to qualify as formal caregivers. Commissioners will review the document and discuss it at their next meeting.
- The Child Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) has recently proposed a bill to raise placement rates by 5 percent for relative care and state-licensed foster homes, whose rates have not been increased in the last six years. The California Alliance, which represents group homes in the state, has asked that group homes also be included in the legislation. (Foster family agencies are not.) Should the governor sign the bill, these increases would have a significant impact on Title IV-E waiver funds, reducing the current projection of \$62 million over the five-year waiver term by the

rate increase amount, an estimated \$41.5 million. This would slash waiver savings available for reinvestment to approximately \$3.6 million per year.

A revised Title IV-E waiver plan will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors on June 26, and discussions are ongoing with Board offices on the impact of this bill.

- With regard to the Commission's question about DCFS staff on medical leave, percentages ranged from 5 to 7.2 percent of the department's workforce over the past year. Chair Kleinberg would like to look at staffing during a future meeting.

#### **KATIE A. UPDATE**

The Katie A. lawsuit was filed to ensure that mental health services are provided to children in foster care, and its settlement required the closing of the MacLaren Children's Center (a county shelter for high-risk children and youth) and the appointment of a panel to oversee implementation of the county's corrective action plan. The Katie A. panel submitted its sixth quarterly report to the court in March.

Brandon Nichols from County Counsel reported on the modifications to the corrective action plan ordered by Judge A. Howard Matz; a revised plan is due to the Board of Supervisors by June 30. The Board will be asked to authorize the monetary adjustments necessary to implement the plan, phase one of which will begin in SPAs 1, 6, and 7. A countywide increase in wraparound slots will also occur in phase one, along with new intensive in-home mental health services—80 slots for multidimensional treatment foster care and 120 slots for intensive treatment foster care. After an assessment of the initial implementation, phase two will roll out services in other SPAs. Recent changes to the plan are a fairly narrow response to questions raised in the court order issued last fall, and work will not stop as of June 30. Combining the Katie A. implementation with Title IV-E waiver plans to achieve overall reforms in the county will be necessary, along with developing outcome targets and exit criteria.

Kim Lewis from the Western Center on Law and Poverty, attorney for the Katie A. plaintiffs, distributed documents recently filed to answer the court's questions on the panel's March report. The Commission's role was brought up—its expertise has been helpful to the panel, who are mostly from outside the Los Angeles area—as well as what can be done to identify compliance barriers at the state level. For the most part, Ms. Lewis said, the state has been uncooperative in the compliance effort, refusing the panel's request to meet with Los Angeles County representatives to discuss guidelines for EPSDT claims and billing. EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment) is a Federal entitlement program administered through the state, and its funds should be available to any child in Los Angeles County who is eligible for Medi-Cal. EPSDT provides a significant portion of the money needed to fund the Katie A. plan, but the lack of state billing guidelines has created a precarious audit environment for providers. Because of the state's lack of cooperation, which Ms. Lewis finds a shocking response to as large a county as Los Angeles, the court will soon move into a new phase of discovery, issuing new rounds of requests for information, depositions, and so on.

The Katie A. panel has identified Title IV-E waiver opportunities to realign and reinvest funds for good child welfare practices—reducing caseloads, moving children to permanency, and reducing detentions. Much of this will rely on the state’s flexibility with the waiver, however, and Ms. Lewis encouraged Commissioners to use their political and legal contacts to pursue fuller cooperation on the state’s part.

Also distributed was the stipulation and order for a data match between DCFS and the Department of Mental Health, removing the normal legal barriers to sharing information so that children served by both agencies can be identified and their needs assessed. The order is time-limited, and it is hoped that the client-tracking database DMH plans to implement in January of 2009—IBHIS, or the Integrated Behavioral Health Information System—will accomplish the same purpose after the order’s expiration. Mr. Nichols did not know if IBHIS would be compatible with systems within the Department of Health Services and other agencies, and Chair Kleinberg expressed dismay at the thought of one department again creating a system that no other system can talk to.

HIPAA (the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) also requires confidentiality, Mr. Nichols said, but allows providers to share personal health care information with entities, public or private, that are coordinating the care of a patient. Other laws are more protective of confidentiality than HIPAA, Ms. Lewis added, and multiple provisions exist in state law that are often inappropriately seen as barriers to sharing data.

Chair Kleinberg asked about the multidisciplinary assessment teams (MATs) that provide assessments of children early on in their cases, paid for in the plan by EPSDT dollars. Both the court and the Katie A. panel have felt that these assessments were important for DCFS to perform; will the planned expansion of the MAT program now not occur? The most recent draft of the compliance plan, Mr. Nichols said, includes an increase in MATs, mandating those assessments for every detained child. The Board of Supervisors will be asked to approve more county dollars for this service, as its county-only cost is high. Various methodologies have been proposed for handling the funding issue, and Mr. Nichols said that all of them are being pursued with the exception of having DCFS become a Medi-Cal biller—essentially a health care provider—because the shifts necessary within the department for that option proved too burdensome. The MAT is a lengthy and expensive assessment, Ms. Lewis said, that can take as long as 37 hours to perform correctly. That level of intensity may not be needed in every case, though it should certainly be available when necessary. Early versions of the compliance plan required MATs prior to detention and at other points during the care of a child; now other screenings are planned for those occasions, with MATs being administered only at detention. According to Angela Carter, the Department of Mental Health is developing a set of standards for providers to ensure that MATs are performed consistently, and Chair Kleinberg asked that the Commission see those standards once they are finalized.

Although most of the Katie A. compliance plan focuses on younger children, Commissioner Curry stressed the panel’s responsibility to older ‘MacLaren-type’ youth with mental health needs who move from DCFS into the juvenile justice system. The panel

has requested that the plan include a piece to target those children, estimated at about 100 per month, and panel members have asked to meet with the county after June 30 to focus on exit conditions and crossover youth. The panel has also met with Judge Michael Nash and looked at the dual-status protocols being piloted in the Pasadena delinquency court.

Chair Kleinberg will include the Pasadena pilot on a future Commission agenda, and would also like to determine the accuracy of the numerical estimate of 100 youth crossing from DCFS to Probation each month. Commissioner Curry suggested involving Lisa Parrish and Bob Rogers in that discussion, and also wants to explore the differences between the two high-end foster care treatments included in phase one of the Katie A. plan.

From the audience, Danny Ramos from the Service Employees International Union Local 721 reported on his union's meeting with DCFS last week to discuss the pitfalls of social workers being asked to perform mental health screenings for DCFS children. Social workers lack the specific mental health training necessary, he said, and are being asked to do more and more outside the scope of their professions. He encouraged Commissioners to continue asking questions about how children can be more effectively served.

#### **PREVENTION INITIATIVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Late in 2003, the Board of Supervisors charged the Children's Planning Council, DCFS, and the Commission to develop a comprehensive plan to prevent children in Los Angeles County from facing child abuse and neglect. David Sanders (then DCFS director) and Vice Chair Rudnick co-chaired a work group that drafted a prevention plan, and a subsequent work group developed a prevention demonstration project. One of the initiative's first charges, Angela Carter said, is to ensure that county resources are leveraged across systems and partners into a continuum of services and supports in communities to prevent children from experiencing abuse and neglect. Another major charge is to build on what already exists, rather than invent another layer of bureaucracy. The proposed demonstration project was recently presented to Board offices, and broad support for it has been gained from community providers, caregivers, relatives, and others.

Harvey Kawasaki reviewed the written update distributed, noting that the demonstration project's inter-departmental partnerships align under the county's HST initiative—Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children. The project will be funded by \$5 million in unused family preservation funds from previous years, and will begin with the new fiscal year on July 1.

The prevention initiative functions on three levels:

- **Primary prevention** (healthier communities), providing resources so families never come to the attention of DCFS—50 percent of allocated funds
- **Secondary prevention** (stronger families), deflecting unsubstantiated DCFS referrals to community agencies—30 percent of allocated funds

- **Tertiary prevention** (thriving children), for situations in which an allegation against a parent has been sustained and the child has entered the child welfare system—20 percent of allocated funds

Because a Request for Proposal (RFP) process is very time-consuming, DCFS chose instead to use a Request for Information (RFI) process to allow entities interested in becoming lead agencies for the demonstration project to put their qualifications forward. The intent of the RFI was to identify a lead agency in each of the county's eight geographic SPAs, or service planning areas. Detailed and specific documentation of respondents' qualifications was required in five arenas:

- At least four years of community partnering and collaboration
- Formal contracts (not memoranda of understanding) with other agencies
- The subcontracting of 10 percent of direct-service revenues
- Playing a lead role in developing and implementing community forums that engage parents and others in feedback and response
- Collaborating with at least one county department to resolve specific issues

The RFI was released on May 21, the response deadline was June 8, and Mr. Kawasaki expects to conclude his evaluation of responses early this week. The 19 responses received encompass 28 different proposals, since some agencies cover multiple SPAs, and a cursory review indicates that most SPAs are covered. The project's \$5 million will be allocated as family support funds are, using a formula based on referral rates, poverty rates, and so on. Once they are chosen, lead agencies will identify 'hotspots' of greatest need within their SPAs in which to operate. Planners are well aware that \$5 million cannot begin to address all the need that exists, particularly within geographically large SPAs; one purpose of the project is to model the more effective use of promoting safe and stable families (PSSF) dollars from the Federal and state governments.

Casey Family Programs will bring together the Children and Families Research Consortium, the Children's Planning Council, First 5 LA, the county's Service Integration Branch, and others to develop a standardized evaluation process for the demonstration project that will encompass qualitative information such as client satisfaction surveys, as well as quantitative performance-based measurements such as reductions in hotline calls, re-referrals, and so on. Next month, the Casey group will look at various data from departments, populations across SPAs, and similar information to identify hotspots. (In future, the group will pull together as much information as possible on the hotspot areas, to extend and leverage the knowledge database.) Each agency will be told which hotspots to cover, and strategies and outcome measures will be formulated for the evaluation, building upon agency infrastructure. The expectation is that agencies will seek new clients to serve during the project, rather than using any existing client base.

Commissioner Williams applauded the project's connection with First 5 LA, and recommended leveraging the \$50 million that First 5 has allocated for its Partnership for Families initiative, which also requires that lead agencies work with smaller or untapped

organizations. She suggested also linking with a newly approved First 5 initiative involving cross-cutting techniques on capacity-building and grassroots development.

She further noted that Healthy City is currently performing a multi-layer analysis of public and private funding throughout the county, to see how funds are concentrating in certain areas. A Healthy City representative attended the evaluation planning meeting, Mr. Kawasaki said, and was eager for DCFS information. Casey Family Programs is currently exploring how to pay for that.

Commissioner Williams hopes that Mr. Kawasaki can appear before the Commission after he has reviewed the RFI responses and decided on lead agencies, as she has concerns regarding some organizations' reported inability to access county dollars. The RFI specifies that 35 percent of awarded monies will go to subcontractors, Mr. Kawasaki said.

Commissioner Savelle confirmed that mentoring is part of the demonstration project's strategies, and Chair Kleinberg asked about aftercare, which the prevention work group found essential to maintaining families once children are reunited after being detained. Aftercare appears in the tertiary prevention area, Mr. Kawasaki explained, and family support and family preservation contracts, now being negotiated, will look at opportunities to align with the demonstration project in that regard, on both a short-term and long-term basis. Iris Courtney added that the ultimate goal is to look at all at-risk families served by any program in the department or the community, and to leave no one out.

Although a grassroots approach featured prominently in early discussions of the prevention initiative, Chair Kleinberg questioned its standing in the current plan. The primary prevention segment, Ms. Carter maintained, is completely a community process, with little DCFS involvement—one reason for the requirement that lead agencies already be seen as facilitators of community-based discussions. The theory of change upon which the demonstration project was built relies on three elements:

- Working in the community with grassroots constituents to identify community needs and to demonstrate problem-solving, planning, and leadership-building skills to community residents
- Working with the community to promote family economic success
- Making a continuum of services and supports readily accessible to any community resident, through a 'no wrong door' approach

Chair Kleinberg sees potential conflicts if lead agencies must respond to and partner with county government as well as grassroots community members, and Mr. Kawasaki identified that tension as the reason behind the RFI's twin requirements of four years' community partnering and a demonstrated ability to collaborate with county departments. Agency activities must empower clients and encourage resiliency, supporting families, providing opportunities for economic development and social networking, and engaging in abuse prevention efforts. Some community agencies have done this for years, and for



those without broad experience, Casey Family Programs is developing a set of community capacity-building tools that can be brought to each network.

From the audience, Steve Goldsmith from Centinela Youth Services, which responded to the RFI, related a hope that his agency's years of experience in community organizing through existing structures such as schools and churches would not be dismissed as a less effective approach than creating new community organizing mechanisms. He also spoke of his agency's sometimes-frustrated attempts to be involved with the local SPA Council; the north hub in SPA 8 collapsed a couple of years ago, he said, and he hoped that would not eliminate his agency from consideration. He does not believe that individuals running the SPA Councils should be awarded these kinds of contracts automatically.

Also from the audience, Danny Ramos, co-convenor of the SPA 3 Council, conveyed his concerns about how the proposed demonstration project will integrate with the work of the SPA Councils, which have been organizing families over the past several years. For example, after 16 weeks of leadership training from MALDEF (the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund), Spanish-speaking parent action networks in SPA 3 are going to public meetings to campaign for neighborhood parks and stop signs. Mr. Ramos also stated that the SPA 3 Council—which addresses its area's large geographic size by rotating meetings among Pasadena, El Monte, and Pomona—has not been assigned a DCFS representative with decision-making authority.

Commissioner Curry advocated a look at the big picture of coordination: how county agencies can leave their silos, provide effective one-stop shopping, and blend funding streams. Acknowledging the importance of that kind of coordination, Ms. Carter is in constant discussions with Lari Sheehan at the Chief Executive Office's Service Integration Branch, which—in another component of HST—is itself focusing on prevention in four communities: Pacoima, Palmdale, Florence/Firestone, and Wilmington. Commissioner Curry requested further information on that venture.

Mr. Kawasaki expects to issue status notices by the end of this week to all agencies that responded to the demonstration project's RFI, and to begin negotiations beginning next week. If the needed configuration is realized, he hopes to have contracts in place no later than August 15.

Jitahadi Imara from the Probation Department reviewed the partnerships between Probation and DCFS with regard to prevention efforts. Because approximately 48 percent of probation youth have had some involvement with DCFS, any initiative that reduces the number of children entering the child welfare system will ultimately lessen those numbers in the probation system as well. The Probation Department is interested in leveraging existing resources such as school-based and area office programs, and in working with the city of Los Angeles in gang-related prevention efforts. It has made clear to the city and to the Los Angeles Unified School District that DCFS is a critical part of the continuum, and Probation cannot participate with DCFS involvement.

School-based probation officers can have a huge impact, providing intervention services to at-risk youth, bringing in community resources, and making referrals. Probation is currently present in 150 schools, with a big demand for more, especially at high-risk middle schools experiencing elevated delinquency levels and students flirting with gang involvement. In three weeks, representatives of DCFS, Probation, and the Department of Mental Health will meet to develop a joint juvenile assessment screening instrument for the early identification of at-risk populations.

With the expectation of waiver funding starting in July, Probation's aftercare services have been expanded from camps to the placement population, so that youth leaving RCL 12 and 14 placements can move into multidimensional treatment and family treatment programs that target parents and siblings as well as individual youngsters. The Board of Supervisors is also being asked to approve positions for aftercare deputies. Within Probation's adult system, domestic violence and substance abuse are being seen as early warning signs, so that DCFS can be contacted for intervention if needed.

Integration discussions with DCFS and DMH are ongoing, and Probation supports DCFS's goals by using existing resources to work with contract agencies, and by seeing the prevention initiative as the beginning of a continuum in which DCFS has the lead. Probation invited DCFS and DMH staff and group home providers to an Aggression Replacement Training (ART) session to teach effective intervention techniques with children exhibiting delinquency behaviors; the training was paid for by a state Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Act (MIOCRA) grant. Commissioner Curry requested time at a future meeting to talk about further partnership actions that Probation is taking.

Vice Chair Rudnick concluded the discussion with Dr. Sanders's characterization of the demonstration project as "the blueprint for the future" and a fundamental change in the way the county has done business. Many questions will arise during its implementation, and some will take a long time to answer. She thanked Ms. Carter for her tireless work on the effort, and Commissioner Williams thanked Vice Chair Rudnick for her years of leadership.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**



Kimberly A. Foster  
Executive Director

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### **CHILDREN'S PLANNING COUNCIL JUVENILE JUSTICE RECOMMENDATIONS**

In May of this year, the Board of Supervisors asked the Children's Planning Council to develop specific, hard-hitting recommendations to achieve the goals outlined in the Council's 2006 report on youth in Los Angeles County's juvenile justice system. Council member Sharon Watson, also the lead consultant for the county's Education Coordinating Council, distributed copies of the 11 recommendations that were presented to the Board on June 12. She noted that the Council's third recommendation would separate the juvenile functions of the Probation Department from adult services, moving juvenile justice

into the children and families' well-being cluster of the county's new administrative governance structure, while keeping adult probation services in the public safety cluster.

While agreeing with that approach for Probation, Chair Kleinberg expressed similar concerns about the Department of Mental Health. A focus on mental health services for children and youth is crucial for compliance with the Katie A. settlement agreement, as well as for allocating Mental Health Services Act dollars, but adult services often take precedence. Although the Children's Planning Council's charge was juvenile justice, Dr. Watson believes there may be room for separating functions in other key departments as well. David Sanders—former director of the Department of Children and Family Services, now a vice president at the Annie E. Casey Foundation and consulting with Los Angeles County—has seen the Council's recommendations and is working on a 'health and human services' structure with regard to another Board motion.

Commissioner Curry would like to see more coordination of the mental health dollars that the Probation Department administers, as she believes weaving elements together is key to improving conditions for the high numbers of DCFS and Probation children needing mental health services. **Commissioner Curry moved that the Commission send the Board of Supervisors an overarching letter of support for the Children's Planning Council's 11 recommendations on the juvenile justice system, including a separate recommendation that the Department of Mental Health be moved into the children and families' well-being administrative cluster. Vice Chair Sorkin seconded the motion,** and it went to discussion.

Commissioner Williams questioned the advisability of presenting an unrelated recommendation within a letter of support, but Commissioner Curry believes that linking the two would strengthen the association in Board members' minds. Vice Chair Sorkin mentioned that the DMH suggestion is in keeping with concerns conveyed to the Chief Executive Office's Lari Sheehan when she presented the new county governance structure at a previous Commission meeting.

The Chief Executive Office will bring the Board of Supervisors information in July on the resources needed to implement the Council's 11 recommendations, and Dr. Watson believes that CEO David Janssen wants that implementation to be the topic for the Board's first monthly policy discussion meeting (a format introduced with the new governance structure). Instructions and motions associated with the recommendations would be considered at that time, although Supervisor Knabe has already calendared a motion, to be heard at tomorrow's meeting, on the Council's first recommendation to expand educational programs in juvenile halls and camps. Both the Children's Planning Council and the Education Coordinating Council will have representatives at the policy discussion, and Chair Kleinberg suggested that Commissioners attend as well. Ms. Sheehan and Bryce Yokomizo, deputy CEO of the children and families' well-being cluster, have been invited to the Commission's July 2 meeting, and proposals on changes to the cluster structure can be shared with them at that time.

Should the entire Department of Mental Health be moved into the children's cluster? Parents can't be ignored in the treatment of a child's mental illness, but once DMH identifies a patient, treatment focuses only on that individual. Given the size and structure of DMH, however, is it feasible to separate juvenile and adult functions? Would the transfer of DMH's child welfare division into the children's cluster accomplish the coordination necessary? Should that be the Commission's recommendation to the Board?

Chair Kleinberg called the question on the floor regarding the motion to recommend the transfer of the entire Department of Mental Health into the children and families' well-being cluster. **The motion was not approved.**

**Commissioner Curry moved that the Commission send the Board of Supervisors an overarching letter of support for the Children's Planning Council's 11 recommendations on the juvenile justice system. Vice Chair Sorkin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

Should the letter include the Commission's concerns about the Department of Mental Health's appearing in a separate cluster? If it does not, the Board may overlook the association with the Council's recommendations, and once a finished implementation plan is developed by the CEO, it may be difficult to suggest changes.

**Commissioner Williams moved that the Commission send a letter to the Chief Executive Officer, with a copy to the Board of Supervisors, expressing the Commission's serious concerns about the placement of the Department of Mental Health in the overall cluster structure of county governance. The letter should refer to the Children's Planning Council's juvenile justice recommendations, noting the high needs of foster and probation youth for mental health services and highlighting the numerous initiatives requiring collaboration between DCFS and DMH. Commissioner Curry seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**